

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1887.

House Drainage.

Eternal vigilance is the price of health. The pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the plague that wasteth at noon-day, must be warded off at any and every sacrifice. In the conflict with health destroying germs and miseries there is no lightening of the punishment on account of ignorance. Nature exacts strict obedience to her laws, under penalties which are imposed without mercy. Yet in spite of these well-known truths, there is much ignorance of the laws of health, and much careless disregard of them on the part of all.

When the Prince of Wales was stricken with typhoid fever some twenty years ago, all England was alarmed; prayers were offered in the churches for his recovery, and the shadow of an impending sorrow hovered over the nation. Examination led to the discovering that the sickness was due to a broken tile beneath the palace.

In a certain town in New York State, typhoid fever broke out almost at once in more than a dozen families. The cause was traced to a certain well from which all were accustomed to draw water and which had been contaminated by connection with the contents of a cesspool.

At one of the hotels at a seaside resort some years ago, typhoid fever became prevalent among the guests. Too close connection of the water-supply with the kitchen-waste was the undoubted cause of the disease.

Among the students of Princeton college, typhoid fever was suddenly discovered. Experts were called in; thorough plans of water supply and drainage were adopted, and although the number of students has largely increased, there is no longer any sickness traceable to this cause.

Every centre of population is in danger from this source, until by proper sewerage, plumbing and drainage, the air and the water are kept free from contamination. It is evident to any one, who has thought upon the subject that a small house lot cannot furnish ground room for cesspools out houses and at the same time a well for drinking water. Admitting that for a time the soil is capable of purifying the foul substances which are poured into it, the time must come sooner or later when its filtering power shall be destroyed and the influence of decaying animal and vegetable matter shall become apparent in the drinking water and in the air.

The case is still worse where cesspools are made the receptacle of the wastes of the kitchen. We have heard of more than one case of this kind in our village. To contaminate the sources of water supply is a criminal offense in many countries. The underground streams are almost as continuous as those upon the surface.

A well sunk at a little distance from a neighboring well will often deplete its supply, showing the intimate connection of their springs. It is evident that to turn sewerage into a hole, reaching down to the water-springs must cause direct contamination to the water supply in neighboring wells.

Two things should be kept constantly in mind. There is no safety in using water from wells within less than fifty feet from cesspools. Old wells used as cesspools are particularly dangerous.

There should be regular and frequent cleansing of cesspools and out-houses.

If these things can be left to the intelligent care of house-holders it is well. If not, some method of constant inspection should be devised by the Board of Health.

That it is better not to know so much than to know so much that is not so, is proved by the experience of one of our Newark contemporaries. The Journal has been sued for libel by Moses Rubenstein of Paterson, the jury returning a verdict recently for \$500 damages. The libel consisted in publishing some remarks derogatory to Mr. Rubenstein's good name in connection with the loss of some jewelry.

We have very little sympathy for papers which publish garbled, exaggerated and untrue reports of occurrences. To be sure, they are often imposed upon by over zealous reporters, but reports should be verified, and those writers who abuse their positions should be promptly disengaged. Our citizens are frequently pained by the reckless reports which are given to the city papers in regard to themselves or their families. There is no censorship of the press, except such as is afforded by trial before the courts. A few sharp lessons will no doubt tend to lessen the amount of falsehood which is paid for "by the column."

On this page will be found a communication from a member of Westminster church, who is also a resident

of Glen Ridge, urging the removal of the church to that part of Bloomfield. We must confess that this is rather a startling proposition. We have accustomed ourselves to looking forward to the time when a handsome stone church would occupy the lot on Franklin street. The founders of Westminster church did not select its present site hastily, but after long and careful deliberation. Future possibilities were taken into account and duly weighed. We have only to observe that our enterprising friends at Glen Ridge should not consider a church from exactly the same standpoint as they would a railroad station or a club house.

We are informed, on good authority, that certain householders have discovered a brilliant scheme of getting rid of their sewage matter: that is to say, they turn it into their unused wells. This is certainly convenient, and it looks cheap. In a spirit of mild curiosity, we should like to know what the Board of Health think about this system of sewage disposal. If they disapprove of it, might it not be a good idea to put a stop to it before it becomes too popular?

While a determination to enforce the rule that all bills presented to the town committee for articles furnished to those presenting orders from the overseer of the poor, must have the different items stated thereon, evinces a watchful care over public interests by those entrusted with the same, it will require a great deal more than this to outwit a portion of that class who draw their supplies from the fountain of public charity. Examples are not lacking, illustrative of the familiarity of this class with the laws of exchange. The tea charitably furnished to Jones sometimes finds its equivalent in exchange for tobacco or some other article not considered a charitable necessity, purchased by Brown of Smith.

Removal of Westminster Church.

To the Citizen:—One of the hopes and desires of the late pastor of Westminster church, often expressed to the writer, was this, that sometime, before long, Westminster church would be moved to Glen Ridge.

Mr. Duffield did not live to see the realization of that hope, but it was not a wise wish and a farsighted forecast of what would come to pass? Why should Westminster church not move to Glen Ridge, and move now, and what are the reasons pro and con?

It may be said that the church has an edifice and land that it cannot leave except at large loss. In answer, the edifice could be taken along at comparatively little expense and the land is more valuable for other purposes than for a church site.

It may also be said that a large portion of the congregation live at Bloomfield and should not be compelled to go so far to church.

In answer, a large portion of the congregation live at Glen Ridge, and have as much right to have a church at their door as the other portion. Also some may say that the expense of obtaining a site at Glen Ridge would be too great for the church; but I have good reason to believe that it would cost nothing.

Others may argue that the town cannot support three Presbyterian churches and that the result of moving the church to Glen Ridge would be the establishment of one at the extreme eastern end of the town. Will it make any difference in the result whether the church at Glen Ridge is Presbyterian or Congregational?

Now what are the arguments for removing?

First: Glen Ridge people, much as they love the Westminster church to which most of them belong, are beginning to get weary of a mile walk on every Sunday, and as the neighborhood grows, are thinking more and more seriously of the desirability of having a church nearer home.

This continual agitation, with a people of their enterprise means that in the near future a church of some kind will be established at Glen Ridge.

It is not better that Westminster church should be taken there rather than lost the membership that it would lose?

Second: in the future, and not very distant future, it will be desirable to establish a church at the Watseessing end of the town. This church will take many from Westminster, practically leaving the Glen Ridge element in the large majority. Why should they go so far from home?

Third: almost every church at Montclair is located on the west of the centre of that town and the whole region between Fullerton Avenue and the centre of Bloomfield is desolate of churches. This region certainly has enough population to support a church, and as a rule when the population warrants it, the church comes.

Why should they go so far from home?

From that standpoint does it not seem best that the removal that Mr. Duffield foresaw should come now?

GLEN RIDGE

The Fire on Sunday.

To the Editor:—I noticed an article in Monday's Evening News stating that the fire on Sunday noon was extinguished before the arrival of the Fire Department. I wish to contradict that. I was on the spot in less than one minute after the alarm was given, being in the immediate neighborhood at the time. The whole department was on the ground, ready for service, in just six minutes from the first tap of the bell, notwithstanding the long distance Hose Companies No. 2 and 3 had to come.

No. 1 Hose had a line laid ready for work, only waiting the word from me. The fire was put out by extinguishers, no water being used. I say the above you will give credit where it is due.

A. J. MARSH,

Chief of Department.

A Consumer's Complaint.

From the Evening News.

It is very easy to see that a large majority of the patrons of the D. L. & W. road are Americans. Why? Because there is not another people on the globe that will put up with the same amount of inconvenience before they will (to use a common phrase) kick.

For the last twenty years the writer has been a patron of a number of the roads running into New York City. The greater portion of the time being over the N. Y. & N. H. from the eastern approach, and from the west the Pennsylvania and Erie, and latterly over the D. L. & W. for about three years past, and as a close observer being quite familiar with railroad practices, I can say that the patrons of this road have bestowed upon them less of that attention and rights which belong to them than on any of the roads over which I have been riding the above time. I have heard more expressions of condemnation from its patrons in one month than during the whole of my time on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

One nuisance is the pedling of candy in a basket that takes up the whole passenger way in the cars when the passengers are being seated at Hoboken. No matter how many passengers are crowding into the cars for a seat that candy basket must have the right of way, or else it is jammed into the face of passengers in their seats to let others pass by. Not satisfied with once going through the train, but a continual passing back and forth until the train is under way. The writer has seen passengers smoking in the car from Newark into Hoboken and not a word spoken to them. In one case the writer saw a passenger call the attention of a brakeman to smoking after he had passed through the car twice.

It is always switching to do it seems to delight the the employee to get in the way of the first train and hinder it's starting on time. The writer has seen it leave five minutes behind time on account of switching at the station. Finally in regard to the workingmen's tickets. It seems as if the road was compelled to issue them, but was doing all they could to prevent them being sold. The ticket office is rarely open before 6:00 A. M. on the train leaves at 6:10. Many times the office is not open until the train has left, with a crowd standing at the window waiting for tickets. A great many of the workingmen cannot get home till a train leaves New York about 6:20 P. M., or later, and when they go to the ticket office to get their slip they are informed that they must buy them through the day—very comforting to lose time to come out and buy tickets, isn't it?

COMMITTEE.

A Grand Benevolence.

The Knights of Honor did a grand work in 1886. It is strictly a fraternity, organized on the lodge plan, holding meetings at least twice a month. It has for its purpose the advancement and benefit of its own members, and the betterment of humanity in general.

During the year 1886, there was distributed in local charities through the medium of the 2,600 subordinate lodges scattered throughout the country \$120,000. This fund was distributed without any cost of disbursement, and went at once to the workingmen's tickets.

While this sum is a handsome one in the aggregate, yet it was distributed without being felt by any member, and was less than \$1.00 for each member of the order. The readings with which the aid is given are remarkable. When Charleston was visited by the terrible earthquakes of last summer, liberal contributions were sent forward by the various lodges throughout the country, and only ceased to do so when no more were needed.

As a branch of the noble charities, this great benevolent order teaches its members to provide for those dependent upon them, when the members shall be called away from earth. It provides that a benefit of \$2,000 shall be paid to the family of every member who dies in good standing in the order, and the sum raised is distributed upon each individual member.

During the year 1886, twenty-one assessments were called. The Knights of Honor did a grand work in 1886. What a noble cause this is, and how many widows and orphans have been kept from want, and comforted in the hour of distress and need, by the quiet but effective labors of this great brotherhood.

When added to this benefit fund of \$120,000 the \$120,000 disbursed as local charities, we have the grand total of \$243,000 disbursed by the Knights of Honor in 1886. What a noble cause this is, and how many widows and orphans have been kept from want, and comforted in the hour of distress and need, by the quiet but effective labors of this great brotherhood.

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Leave Barclay Street—5:30, 7:20, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30

11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30

7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00 p. m.

Leave New York—5:30, 6:30, 7:15, 8:15,

9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00 p. m.

Leave Waterbury—5:30, 6:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15,

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